

Remarks

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed August 15, 2007.

I. Summary of Examiner's Rejections

Prior to the Office Action mailed August 15, 2007, Claims 1-36 and 38 were pending in the Application. In the Office Action, Claims 1-23, 25-26, 28-36 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitain et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,864,871), in view of Thjai et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0163740), and in further view of Blumer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,732,219).

II. Summary of Applicant's Amendment

The present Response amends Claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 15, 18, 22, 26 and 32, leaving for the Examiner's present consideration Claims 1-36 and 38. Reconsideration of the Application, as amended, is respectfully requested. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to prosecute any originally presented or canceled claims in a continuing or future application.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Office Action mailed August 15, 2007, Claims 1-23, 25-26, 28-36 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitain et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,864,871, hereinafter Kitain), in view of Thjai et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0163740, hereinafter Thjai), and in further view of Blumer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,732,219, hereinafter Blumer).

Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the embodiment therein. As amended, Claim 1 now defines:

- 1. A method for providing access to remotely stored files, the method comprising:
receiving an identifier from a user to an access server;
determining, by said access server, a plurality of login data associated with the user based on the identifier received, wherein each login data provides*

access to at least one of a plurality of file sources, said login data being stored on the access server;
contacting by the access server each of said plurality of file sources, one or more of said plurality of file sources having a file source wrapper module residing thereon, wherein the file source wrapper module periodically gathers lists of recently used files to present to the access server upon contacting the file source by the access server; and
logging into each of said plurality of file sources by the file source wrapper module via the login data associated with each file source;
automatically retrieving, from each of said plurality of file sources, information associated with at least one file recently accessed by the user and generating a single unified list of recently accessed files from all of the plurality of file sources wherein the unified list of recently accessed files is based on the user's previous activities collected across the plurality of file sources;
generating an optimized interface containing said unified list of recently accessed files automatically retrieved from the plurality of file sources and presenting said optimized interface to the user.

As amended, Claim 1 defines a method for accessing remote files via an optimized interface. The simple and optimized user interface provides access to files that are stored across multiple different types of platforms and networks based on the previous activities of the user across those platforms. The file source wrapper module is defined, which is a software program running on the file source and this module manages the interactions between the file source and the access server. The file source wrapper periodically gathers lists of files recently accessed by the user, which will be presented to the access server when it contacts the file source.

As such, the file source wrappers enable the system to generate unified lists of recently accessed files based on the user's previous activities collected across the multiple types of platforms. Furthermore, once the user has made changes by using the optimized interface to access the files, these changes can be propagated back to the file sources.

One advantage of these features is that file sources which do not allow remote log on, can still be part of the system by implementing the file source wrapper which resides locally on the file source and periodically gathers information associated with the user. Since the file source wrapper is a program that is running locally, it can retrieve lists of recently accessed files and present it to the access server even in cases where the file source does not allow remote log in by the access server.

Another advantage of the system is that the system can automatically retrieve the files and documents that are most pertinent to the user without having to manually perform queries and searches across the network. For example, when a user with a cellular phone connects to the access server, files which were recently accessed by that user are presented automatically, even though they may have been accessed using a PC, PDA or another type of device.

Kitain teaches an information delivery system and method including on-line entitlements. More particularly, Kitain appears to disclose a database that stores research reports received from brokerage firms and a research delivery module that allows a user to submit a manual query and receive query results listing the research reports. A repository server appears to provide investors with lists of reports and allows them to download, view and print the reports.

Thjai teaches a user interface system for interfacing a user with a plurality of vendor servers over a computer network. More specifically, Thjai appears to disclose a plurality of virtual one-to-one connections between a browser and different vendor servers which allow serving up content to the user by the different vendors.

Blummer teaches a computer system and computer implemented process for remote editing of computer files. More specifically, Blummer was cited as disclosing an authoring tool that allows a client to retrieve a file, edit it and store the edited file back to the server (Figures 4, 5).

However, Applicant respectfully submits that Kitain in combination with Thjai and Blummer (hereinafter the cited references) fail to render obvious the features of Claim 1, as amended.

Initially, the cited references fail to disclose any file source wrapper module that runs on the file source and that periodically gathers lists of recently accessed files to present to the access server when it contacts the file source, as defined in amended Claim 1. None of the cited references appear to implement such a file source wrapper component. For example, Thjai merely discloses that multiple vendor servers are contacted for querying the content. However, there appears to be no component that runs on the file source and periodically gathers lists of recently accessed files, as defined in amended Claim 1. Similarly, Kitain merely teaches that the repository server comprises database servers which perform SQL queries. Once again, there appears to be no disclosure of any component that runs on the file source impersonating the user

and periodically collects recently accessed files. In a similar manner, Blummer also fails to disclose this feature of Claim 1, as amended.

Additionally, upon closer inspection, it will become apparent that the cited references fail to disclose a unified list of recently accessed files is based on the user's previous activities collected across the plurality of file sources, as defined in amended Claim 1. In the Office Action, it was proposed that Kitain teaches:

“the repository server provides investors with lists of reports received from the contributor workstations 14, 16, 18 and allows investors to request lists of reports that fit certain criteria;” and C41:L21-29 “wherein this reads over the user has decided to select documents from Alex Brown & Sons released over the last 30 days.” (Office Action, page 3).

Applicant respectfully submits that this disclosure is different from the features of amended Claim 1. The cited portions of Kitain are describing the ability to manually query a database for specific records that fit specified criteria. However, this is not the same as *automatically* retrieving files *based on the users previous activities collected across multiple file sources*, which include multiple types of platforms and networks, as defined in amended Claim 1. These features of Claim 1 allow the user to obtain an optimized interface that is based on his/her recent activities. No such functionality is described in Kitain, nor any of the cited references.

In view of the above comments, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1, as amended, is neither anticipated by, nor obvious in view of the cited references, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

Claims 8, 15 and 22

Claims 8, 15 and 22 have been amended similarly to Claim 1 to more clearly define the embodiments therein. As amended, Claims 8, 15 and 22 contain at least some of the features discussed above in regards to Claim 1. Accordingly, the arguments and remarks made above in connection with Claim 1 are incorporated herein by reference. Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 8, 15 and 22 as amended, are likewise neither anticipated by, nor obvious in view of the cited references, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-21 and 23-25

Claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-21 and 23-25 are not addressed separately, but it is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable as depending from an allowable independent claim, and further in view of the comments provided above. Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-21 and 23-25 are similarly neither anticipated by, nor obvious in view of the cited references, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

It is also submitted that these claims also add their own limitations which render them patentable in their own right. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to argue these limitations should it become necessary in the future.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowable, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: /Justas Geringson/
Justas Geringson
Reg. No. 57,033

Customer No.: 23910
FLIESLER MEYER LLP
650 California Street, 14th Floor
San Francisco, California 94108
Telephone: (415) 362-3800
Fax: (415) 362-2928